



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

SCHAEFFER et al

Atty. Ref.: 839-856

Serial No. 09/917,796

Group: Unassigned

Filed: July 31, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: THERMAL BARRIER COATING

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November 7, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace paragraph 0003 beginning on page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph/s:

In recent years, significant advantages have been achieved by using high temperature alloys in gas turbine systems by incorporating iron, nickel and cobalt-based superalloys in coatings applied to the substrate of key turbine components. The purpose of an effective surface coating is two-fold. First, the coating must form a protective and adherent layer that guards the underlying base material against oxidation, corrosion, and